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February 22, 2000

Docket No: 98P-1194
Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5360 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I am writing to urge you to take Monsanto's genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) (also known as rBST or Posilac[®]) out of the US market. Both Canada and the European Union found that rBGH posed enough health risks to humans and animals to ban the product from their markets. Before allowing a substance to be marketed, the FDA is supposed to make sure it is safe for consumption. There have been studies done (such as Health Canada's studies showing that the oral feeding of rBGH led to thyroid cysts and prostate activity in male rats) that clearly indicate the need for further study of rBGH's impact on human health. Not only are there potential health risks to humans that haven't been fully examined (possible carcinogenic effects), but there are also negative effects on the animals (increased udder infections, and increased lameness) which may impact the product being consumed by humans (the infections cause farmers to increase their usage of antibiotics, which may then contribute to antibiotic resistance in bacteria – another significant human health risk).

I hope that the FDA will do its job of protecting consumers from products that may be dangerous. I emphasize again the need for the FDA to do the right thing by prohibiting the use of rBGH until the appropriate studies are conducted and the results carefully examined. The American public expects the FDA to provide at least the same level of protection that our Canadian and European counterparts are receiving from their equivalent organizations.

Sincerely yours,

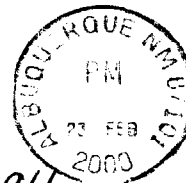


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